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Mr. President, what is the object of the present proceeding? I refer now to the resolution introduced by the senator from Mississippi, [Mr. Foote,] as it is more comprehensive than the one offered by the senator from New York, [Mr. Seward,] and better opens the whole subject. But by-and-by I shall briefly consider the latter. What, I repeat is the object of this proceeding? It is to express the interests of the American people and their representatives in the glorious cause—ay, and in the glorious fate of this great Hungarian leader. What was that resolution of the senator from Mississippi? It was substantially an expression of "sympathy" for a people "unfurling the banners of freedom," in the beautiful words of Washington; and these furnish a precedent which I hope the senators from Georgia and Kentucky [Mr. Berrien and Mr. Underwood] will consider sufficiently authoritative to enable them to join us upon this occasion in expressing the sympathy of our countrymen, as the same feeling was expressed by the first and greatest of our Chief Magistrates in the heroic age of the republic. What have nations a right to do—a real practical right to do—under the circumstances in which we are placed? That is the true question, divested of all the fears whose anticipations have here fallen from eloquent tongues, but I trust upon unbelieving ears. Why, sir, every nation has the right to open wide its doors, and to receive, with welcome and kindness, all the victims of oppression who, seeking to free their country from despotism, encounter the disastrous chances of a revolution, and are compelled to seek safety by flight. These unfortunate ones are received and protected by every government under Heaven, except where excluded by the joint stipulations of some of those iron-hearted rulers whose vengeance nothing but human blood will satisfy, and who desire to cut off all means of escape from homeless, houseless patriots. The moment a revolution is put down, those who have taken part in it flee elsewhere, if they can, for protection. In Europe they find refuge in France and England. There are at this moment some half a dozen wandering pretenders, whom revolutionary event have expelled or withheld from thrones, and who are roaming through Europe protected by its various governments.

England at one time afforded an asylum to the refugees of two, if not of three revolutions. I am not sure that the representative of the Bourbon family was there when Louis Philippe was overthrown, but Louis Philippe himself and those who led to the revolution that dethroned him and were the victims of another struggle found themselves in England at the same time, quietly enjoying the protection of her laws. Who ever complained that a place of refuge was thus found for the unfortunate? And yet, what is the importance of a small band of exiles upon a distant continent to the real presence and protection of him who claims, by the grace of God, the government of a country? If the former is justly offensive, I should like to know what the latter is! If this poor privilege of escape were taken away, you would shut up within a condemned district every man under the ban of his rulers, and you would make each of the despotic countries of Europe one vast slaughter-house; and still more, you would destroy the very germs of liberty throughout a vast portion of the world. But, still further, the governments of Europe appropriate money to defray the expenses of strangers thus thrown upon their hospitality. The British government has done this; and so has the government of France, and to a large amount, for exiles who have taken refuge there. It is a well known fact that the banished pretenders to several of the European thrones have been aided, if not wholly supported, by the contributions of their monarchical brethren who have been fortunate enough to retain their position. And are we to refrain from even the poor tribute of expressing our sympathy for these interesting strangers who come among us—these patriotic exiles—because we are republicans, and they desire their countrymen to become such? No one complains of monarchical sympathy. Let no man in this

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